

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009  
7:00PM**

Council President Shivers called the meeting to order at 7:11PM

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (7:16P.M.ent)  
Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember  
Gerald Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Brian Shivers, Councilmember Elenora  
Simms (7:42P.M.), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (EXCUSED)

Invocation-The invocation was given by Councilmember Porter

Agenda- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by  
Councilmember Hardy to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes-It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by  
Councilmember Raynor to approve the June and July Public Session minutes. The  
motion carried.

**PRESENTATION:**  
NONE

**LEGISLATION:**  
Ordinance 10-01 Establishment of Farmers Market was introduced by Councilman  
Porter on Monday, July 13, 2009, and the second reading was declared on Monday,  
September 14, 2009. It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by  
Councilmember Hardy to approve Ordinance 10-01. The motion carried.

FOR: Hardy, Porter and Raynor  
AGAINST: Gatling and Shivers  
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution 10-07 To Approve the application of financing by Housing Initiative  
Partnership for a Community Legacy Program was introduced by the City Council  
and the first reading was declared on Monday, September 14, 2009. It was  
motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to

approve Resolution 10-07. The motion carried, and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Shivers

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

Resolution 10-08 To Adopt a Debt Policy for the City of Seat Pleasant was introduced by the City Council and the first reading was declared on Monday, September 14, 2009. It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve Resolution 10-08. The motion carried and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor and Shivers

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

Resolution 10-09 to establish a freeze on the filling of certain personnel positions in the City of Seat Pleasant was introduced by the City Council and the first reading was declared on Monday, September 14, 2009. It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve Resolution 10-09. The motion carried and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor and Shivers

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

## **REPORTS:**

### **Mayoral Report:**

Mayor Grant paused to recognize the death of Councilmember Yeargin's father. He further reported that in August he traveled to Nigeria for two weeks, as President of Maryland Black Mayors and the Mayor Black Caucus. We have been extended an invitation to attend a National Conference in October. There are tremendous opportunities in the land. The president of Nigeria has two hundred representatives in the State of Maryland. We are building on our relationship weekly. Earlier in August we hosted a Seat Pleasant Health Forum, which was attended by Councilmember Brian Shivers. We have some health concerns in this area, in particular to sexually transmitted disease, and HIV. The relationship between older men and younger females has become a problem. As the Council has their Ward Meeting, there are particular issues that may need to be addressed.

He will be giving a speech at the Health Partnership later on in the year. We need to be engaged more in the University of Maryland Public Health Department. He was pleased that Council included monies in the budget to assist with the Health Forum. The president of the Civic Association has been very supportive of the UMD Health Partnership. However, with his new found role, he is unable to attend. We need to ensure that our relationship with them doesn't reign. The award of the Health Partnership and the dental mobile has an increased interest, now the City of District Heights and Hyattsville are the other two communities they are interested in working. He has been able to pull them back into the City. We need to see more support in the area of UMD-Health Partnership. We need to engage in our citizenry to encourage them to participate, as there are vacant seats on the partnership. The School of Public Health isn't an accreditation program, and they are using Seat Pleasant to gain their accreditation. He had a meeting with Dr. Braveboy, in referencing to the cuts coming down from the State of Maryland. He has submitted a letter to the Governor. We may lose seven million dollars in bus transportation. If we lose the bus service, it is a possibility that some residence may lose their jobs as many of them may not drive. The Council needs to engage in the process on the County level. We need to be sending letters and passes resolution regarding issues of concern, as when the cuts come we don't have to put the burden on our tax payers back. Seat Pleasant Elementary was the only School to receive double digits for the increase in the reading. We had a back to school ceremony on the first day of school. We had a fund raiser to raise monies for supplies. Seat Pleasant Elementary School is now 90% of our residents.

The Governor announced in a Press Release for the need to of dental services, and we will receive \$28,000. We kicked off the Healthy Smiles in September at Seat Pleasant Elementary School. We participated with the Council President on Saturday, September 12, 2009 for the donation given by Kevin Durant of \$25,000.00. The money was given last year. He thanked Councilmember Gatling and Councilmember Shivers for their continue support to the children, and their stalwartness in working with the children. We are about getting the work done, and not to take on personal issues. Councilmember Simms and I had a very long conversation and we will be working together on something soon. Councilmember Gatling on Economic Development, Councilmember Yeargin with Public Safety. We are working together! The Council should not have held a meeting tonight, as we should be at the Sports and Learning complex lobbying for the City. His feelings are let get the money and fight later. He sent a very strong letter to the Governor regarding the 90% reduction of the Highway User Fund, and 17% in State Aid. We aren't going to be able to fill the position in the Police Department and Public Works Department, and may need to lay some people off in the Public

Works Department. He has been warning the Council for the past three years that this was going to happen, check the minutes. There is an event coming up on this Saturday, September 19, 2009 regarding Community Service strategy and how to respond. We haven't submitted a resolution of support on the Pepco Smart Growth program. The Maryland Black Issue Conference will be held on November 7, 2009 and the event is free. The Maryland Black Image award is a ticketed event. We will have think tanks, health, education and wealth. The awards will be given to residents of Maryland. The Harriett Tubman Award will be given to Jada Pinkett-Smith. [www.marylandblackmayors.org](http://www.marylandblackmayors.org). Council President Shivers wanted to comment on the bickering between the Mayor and Council. He attended the Civic Association meeting and Delegate Benson attended the meeting, and had a list of projects from other municipality, and Seat Pleasant didn't have any. She said the projects will go through when the Legislative and Executive branch work together. When Mr. Kennedy was in office he called upon Mayor Grant to support him going after monies, and they put their difference aside and we increased the budget by \$100,000.00

#### **Council President Report:**

Council President Shivers-reported that the Council was in recess for the month of August, and the business of the Council met to pass Resolution 10-05 to rescind the appointment of Deron King and extend the appointment of Robert Ashton, as the Acting City Administrator.

#### **Departmental Reports:**

Mr. Ashton, Acting City Administrator reported that his report goes along with the Council on passing the legislation for tonight. We do have an Acting Police Chief; Brian Cedar was unable to attend due to an emergency.

We are going to look at our telephone system and cellular telephone system, and the banking system, and looking at treasury management in terms of adjustments and moving into an electronic transaction in comparison to rate charges. Community Development Block Grant we were awarded \$433,000, for PY 31, 32 and 33, and we spent every penny of the monies that was awarded to us. We have received a \$160,000 and working on closing the door with \$40,000. They are awarding monies on the way they were spent in the time past. The tax bill will be coming to you on the last week of December, please look at the bill to determine the value of your home. Please ensure your label has 1720 is listed on your taxes, and this is the way monies are awarded to the City.

Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer-This month the Code Enforcement sent out over five municipal infractions and they are all in court. 9 work orders were completed by Public Works. She stated 6300 Addison Road has been sent a notice to appear in Court regarding zoning for having a church in Seat Pleasant. The JAG “Joint Agency Group” team will be out to assist us with dealing with heavy violations, oil spills, drug activity, and unhealthy living environments. They will assist with any violations in the dealing with dogs. They will send approximately seven (7) officers, and other County assistances. The five citations issued to the owner of the property located at 5601 Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway were returned unsigned, as they were sent certified mail. We are working with having the officers to serve them directly. She had since engaged Chaplain Ivey to assist her with bringing JAG on to address the issue. Councilmember Simms recommended that she inquire on the legal representative and serve him, and she wants the report in writing.

Councilmember Shivers stated that he and Councilmember Gatling had the opportunity to visit the Communication Center, and met with a representative for JAG and they were trying to get into the City. Chaplain Ivey has worked with them in the past concerning 6500 Central Avenue. Do they work with residential properties? Yes, but we are unable to disclose this information. The Property Managements should be working with the City to act as an agent. We have the signed agreement with the properties on Greig Street. The owner will need to sign and allow the Seat Pleasant Police Department to act as agent.

Johnny Thompson, there are a number of projects on 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Seat Pleasant Drive to create a flower bed on the street divider in that location. The County’s Community Service Department has been a tremendous asset in the City wide cleanup efforts. Their continuous support has enabled the Public Works Department to cut grass, and help with blight removal around abandoned houses without the need to hire private contractors. This has contributed to a tremendous cost savings for the City. The Public Works Department will follow its usual schedule for leave pickup. Citizens can all bag leaves for pick up by Bates Trucking, which picks up yard waste on Wednesday until January. We have been in contact with Harvey’s Salt Company concerning salt and deicing needs for the City. We are also looking into purchasing a new salt spreader to assist with the snow removal.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENT:**

Angela Scott-Seat Pleasant, MD- Had questions about the revised City's Website, and the update of the Charter.

Eugene Kennedy-Dr. Taylor agreed to provide dental service for the children of Seat Pleasant, and he didn't see any of the elected officials at the event. When he reads the gazette he says the other municipality doing great things. He is glad that Mayor Grant has seen some of the things he has seen for twelve years (12). The Council should be meeting with the Governor, Senator and Delegates lobbying them for support. He has counted sixteen (16) abandoned cars at the Feggans Center. Would like to know what the City will be doing to remove them?

Maxine Cobb-Thanked everyone for sending her cards when she was sick. She is concerned with the drug activity on Greig Street coming from the Apartments. She agrees with the Mayor in his comment on working together.

Jacqui Battle-She wanted to give kudos to Tiara Andrews for the fine job she is doing as a Code Enforcement Officer. She assisted a residence and her family in being relocated. She wanted to thank Mr. Thompson for getting the workers to perform and work on the issues. She said he has been doing a marvelous job since he has been employed with the City. She is concerned about the grass that was replaced by the companies. The grass has come up lack weeds. There is drastic need for speed humps on 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The house on 69<sup>th</sup> and Drylog had done an excellent job in cleaning up the property. She wanted to thank her Ward representative for having meeting and getting the people together.

Colleen McKinley-She lives across from Harmony Commentary, and she is here to represent her church. How can the Church be more involved with Health Partnerships?

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

NLC Prescription Drug Program-She wanted to report that the City has joined the CVS through NLC to receive 20% off of our prescriptions.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council President Election-there were three nominees, which are Gatling, Porter and Simms, for the Council President-Elect effective October 5, 2009. Councilmember Simms stated she wanted to remove her name as a nominee for Council President. City Clerk, Dashaun Lanham announced after reviewing the

vote, that Councilmember Gatling will be the new Council President for the City of Seat Pleasant.

It was motion by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Gatling to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting Adjourned at 8:53pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

Submitted by,

Dashaun Lanham  
City Clerk